



## **PROGRESS REPORT NO. 31**

**TO:** Kevin Rochlin – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - via Email

**FROM:** Marko Adzic – Teck American Incorporated (Teck)

**CC:** David Godlewski – Teck (via Email)

**DATE:** February 19, 2009

**FILE NO:** 1-773180-000

**RE:** Upper Columbia River (UCR) Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study  
(RI/FS) - Progress Report No. 31 Month Ending January 2009

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Pursuant to Paragraph 39 of the June 2, 2006 Settlement Agreement (Agreement), the following is intended to provide a summary of the activities completed during the past month in compliance with the aforementioned Agreement. It is also intended to provide a brief summary of pending and on-going activities.

On January 28, 2009, funds were transferred to the U.S. Department of Interior (DOI) as specified within the June 23, 2008 access agreement; and a special use permit application for 2009 beach sediment sampling was concomitantly submitted by Teck. On the 21<sup>st</sup> of January, Teck informed the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (CCT) that it is ready to sign the access agreement. As of February 2<sup>nd</sup>, CCT representatives have not yet reviewed the aforementioned access agreement. Teck will continue to work cooperatively with the CCT on this matter, and is in a position to submit a research permit application for 2009 beach sediment sampling activities immediately upon executing the agreement. Based on the anticipated permit review period and beach sediment sampling window<sup>1</sup>, it is important that Teck be in a position to submit the aforementioned permit application by the end of this month.

The “*Draft Quality Assurance Project Plan for the 2008/2009 Beach Sediment Study*” and its attachments/appendices (i.e., the Cultural Resources Coordination Plan) will be modified per EPA’s comments. Based on receipt of comments on February 2, 2009, the document will be submitted for approval no later than March 4, 2009.

A summary of activities (e.g., deliverables) completed to date, and those anticipated within in the near future, are presented within Table 1 below.

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<sup>1</sup> As indicated on the CCT website ([http://www.colvilletribes.com/research\\_permit.htm](http://www.colvilletribes.com/research_permit.htm)) approximately 45 days should be allowed for permit review and processing this in conjunction with the beach sediment sampling window (i.e., last week of April) time could become an issue beyond February 2009.

**Table 1. Upper Columbia River Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Summary of On-Going and Planned Activities**

<b>Task No.</b>	<b>Task Description</b>	<b>Status <sup>1.</sup></b>	<b>Issues</b>	<b>Estimated Completion Date <sup>2</sup></b>
1.	2005 Field Data Transfer	Complete	None to report at this time	<u>July 31, 2006</u>
2.	Technical Memorandum <sup>3.</sup>	Complete	None to report at this time	<u>October 27, 2006</u>
3.	Draft RI/FS Work Plan	Draft submitted	None to report at this time	<u>December 28, 2006</u>
4.	Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) <sup>4.</sup>	Draft submitted	None to report at this time	<u>February 26, 2007</u>
5.	Health and Safety Plan	Complete	None to report at this time EPA does not approve Health and Safety Plans	<u>February 26, 2007</u>
6.	Cultural Resources Coordination Plan <sup>5.</sup>	Draft submitted	None to report at this time	<u>February 26, 2007</u>
7.	Revised RMAO Memorandum <sup>6.</sup>	Complete	None to report at this time	<u>March 11, 2007</u>
8.	Additional Trail Data	Complete	None to report at this time	<u>May 6, 2007 <sup>7.</sup></u>
9.	April Workshop Summary	Complete	None to report at this time	<u>July 12, 2007</u>
10.	Revised RI/FS Work Plan <sup>8.</sup>	Complete <sup>9.</sup>	None to report at this time	<u>September 21, 2007</u>
11.	Screening Level ERA	Interim Draft submitted	None to report at this time	<u>March 11, 2008</u>
11.	SLERA	Draft submitted (Step 5)	None to report at this time	<u>December 5, 2008</u>
12.	White Sturgeon Surface Water Toxicity SAP <sup>10.</sup>	Complete	None to report at this time	<u>May 26, 2008</u>
13.	Surface Water SAP	Draft submitted (Step 5) <sup>11.</sup>	None to report at this time	<u>July 18, 2008</u>
14.	Fish Tissue SAP	Draft submitted (Step 5) <sup>11.</sup>	None to report at this time	<u>July 18, 2008</u>
15.	Phase 2 Beach SAP	Comments Received (Step 10)	None to report at this time	<u>August 1, 2008</u>
16.	BERA Work Plan	Ongoing	None to report at this time	May 1, 2009
17.	Phase 2 Beach SAP (Revised)	Ongoing	None to report at this time	March 4, 2009
18.	White Sturgeon 2009 Toxicity Testing	Step 1 <sup>12.</sup>	None to report at this time	March 2009

Notes: 1. In July 2008 EPA in association with the participating parties developed a UCR-specific 15-step process flow outline to review technical deliverables. In recognition of the

aforementioned review process, 'Steps' as laid-out and defined on July 9, 2008 are employed herein.

2. Dates that have been underlined represent the actual day the respective deliverable was submitted to EPA as per Paragraph 80 of the Agreement.

3. As outlined within the Agreement, the technical memorandum outlines and described the Risk-Based Remedial Objectives for the Ecological Risk Assessment. Remedial objectives for the protection of human health will be prepared by EPA and submitted under separate cover at a later date.

4. The 2007 Sediment Investigation of Beaches and Depositional Areas sampling and analysis plan submitted under Paragraph 13 of the Agreement was disapproved in a letter dated June 20, 2008 (received on June 24, 2008) with revisions due no later than August 25, 2008. The revised document was submitted ahead of schedule on August 1, 2008.

5. Further to EPA's September 19, 2007 letter informing Teck that the February 2007 cultural resource coordination plan (the plan) would require revisions. EPA disapproved the plan and in a letter dated July 3, 2008 (received on July 7, 2008), requested that a revised plan be submitted with each quality assurance project plan. A revised plan was submitted with the 2008/2009 Surface Water Study (Item No. 13), the 2008 Fish Tissue Study (Item No. 14), and the 2008/2009 Beach Sediment Study (Item No. 15). Comments on the plan (as attached and included as part of Item No. 15) were received on February 2, 2009.

6. The draft technical memorandum on risk-based management action objectives (RMAOs) was revised per EPA's January 16, 2007 comments.

7. Following a request outlined by EPA in a letter dated February 1, 2007 (received on February 5, 2007) Teck has compiled additional information on the Trail Facility so as to assist in the identification of chemicals of interest (COIs) as outlined within Paragraph 24 of the Agreement. An electronic version of the deliverable was forwarded to EPA on May 6, 2007 with hard copies delivered shortly thereafter. In addition, a second deliverable identified as "*Business Confidential*" information was submitted to EPA legal counsel under separate cover on May 7, 2007 by Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman (i.e., Teck legal counsel) on behalf of Teck.

8. An electronic copy of the draft RI/FS work plan has been provided to facilitate modifications of the document by EPA. It is anticipated that both EPA and Teck will be in a position to finalize this document in the near future.

9. On December 31, 2008 the RI/FS work plan, as modified by EPA, was approved.

10. As noted during the March 2008 technical workshop, the draft SAP is for work being conducted in Canada and will be provided to EPA for informational purposes. Results of the study will be treated in a similar matter as other peer reviewed papers. Preliminary results will be presented at the 2008 Annual Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC).

11. A draft 2008 Plankton Study was appended to the draft study plan.

12. It is anticipated that in light of the information gained, and institutional knowledge developed from the Canadian based 2008 field studies, similar studies can be efficiently completed within the Site in 2009.

13. ERA = Ecological Risk Assessment  
SAP = Sampling & Analysis Plan  
BERA – Baseline Ecological Risk Assessment

Should you have any questions or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 509-892-2585.